

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 4.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 10-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 12-14, 16 and 19-20 have been amended. Claims 3 and 9 have been cancelled. In view of the following, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If, after considering this response, the Examiner does not agree that all of the claims are allowable, then the Examiner is requested to schedule a teleconference with the Applicants' attorney to further the prosecution of the application.

Objection to the drawings

Fig. 4 has been amended to overcome this rejection.

Objection to the specification

Paragraph [20] has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion on page 3 of the Office Action dated March 16, 2006.

Paragraph [23] has been amended to overcome this rejection.

Rejection of claims 1, 6, 13-14, 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

These claims have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10-12 and 16-23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (US 2003/0154433)

Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, recites a test circuit being selectable between a scan test mode and a functional test mode as a function of the configuration signals, the test circuit executing different decoding algorithms during the scan test mode and the functional test mode.

For example, referring, e.g., to FIG. 4 and paragraphs 21 and 24-26 of the present application, a test circuit (TMU) 21 is selectable between a scan test mode and a functional test mode. Configuration signals 29 are applied to the TMU 21 to configure the TMU 21 to execute different decoding algorithms during the scan test mode and the functional test mode. It should be noted that, as described throughout the present application, the scan test mode and the functional test mode are entirely

separate modes of operation. This is because the TMU 21 is completely reconfigured to execute a unique decoding algorithm during each mode of operation.

Wang, on the other hand, does not disclose a test circuit being selectable between a scan test mode and a functional test mode as a function of the configuration signals, the test circuit executing different decoding algorithms during the scan test mode and the functional test mode. Instead, Wang simply discloses a broadcaster 701 that converts a 4-bit virtual scan input 726-729 into an 8-bit broadcast scan pattern 734-743 (FIG. 7). However, the broadcaster 701 is not selectable between a scan test mode and a functional test mode. The virtual scan controller 702 and the combinational logic network 705 cannot be reconfigured to execute a different decoding algorithm during different modes of operation. In fact, after reviewing Wang in its entirety, the Applicants' attorney is unable to find any mention of a test circuit that is completely reconfigurable to execute a unique decoding algorithm during separate modes of operation. Therefore, Wang does not satisfy the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 6, 16 and 19

Claims 6, 16 and 19, as amended, are patentable for reasons similar to those recited above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Claims 4-5, 8, 10-12, 17-18 and 20-23

Claims 4-5, 8, 10-12, 17-18 and 20-23 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1, 6, 16 and 19.

Rejection of claims 2, 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Mielke et al. (US 6,195,772)

Claims 2, 7 and 15 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 6.

Rejection of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Correale et al. (US 6,001,662)

Claims 13 and 14 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 6.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, claims 1-2, 4-8 and 10-23 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Applicants have enclosed with this response a petition for extension of time to respond along with a check for payment of the required fees. It is not believed that any other fees are due as a result of this amendment. However, should any additional fees be required, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If, after considering this response, the Examiner does not agree that all of the claims are allowable, then it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney at (425) 455-5575.

DATED this 19th day of January, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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